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SOURCE Bashkimi.

KUVEND APPROVES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

At its third session, held 4 July 1950, the People's Kuvend approved a series of amendments and additions to the Albanian Constitution, including the following:

The amendment to Article 10 states, "The state supports the socialist development of agriculture by organizing state agricultural enterprises and machine tractor stations and by assisting the agricultural cooperatives and other forms of working peasants' associations created on a voluntary basis."

An amendment to Article 18 asserts the leadership of the Communist Party.

Another addition states that "the protection of state and cooperative property is a sacred duty, and injury thereto is a serious crime. Those responsible for such injury are enemies of the people."

Articles 39, 42, 43, and 57, dealing with the People's Kuvend, are revoked and replaced by the following provisions:

Legislative authority belongs exclusively to the People's Kuvend. Initiative belongs to the Presidium, the government, and the deputies.

The leadership of the People's Kuvend is to be elected for a 4-year term, and not for a single session.

The People's Kuvend shall convene twice a year in regular sessions. The dates for convening it shall not be fixed, but shall be determined by the national interest and the work to be done.

Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote, rather than a simple plurality as in the past.

Articles 58 and 64 as amended recognize the right of the government to issue decisions and orders, and the right of ministries to issue orders and directives.

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Article 81, as amended, specifies that the people's courts, with the exception of the Supreme Court, shall be elected by the people.

Article 79 is amended to empower the district courts to impose sentences of more than 10 years. They may now try persons accused of any offense and pronounce sentences without restriction.

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